

El and her Journey to Find a Mystery by LocalLibraryGremlin

Series: [yeah there gay keep scrolling \[5\]](#)

Category: Stranger Things (TV 2016)

Genre: Alternate Universe, El and Will are Siblings, Everyone lived, F/F, Falling In Love, Internalized Homophobia, M/M, Period-Typical Homophobia, el wants to solve a mystery, mainly from Mike, the hoppers and the Byers are living together

Language: English

Characters: Dustin Henderson, Eleven | Jane Hopper, Lucas Sinclair, Maxine "Max" Mayfield, Mike Wheeler, Other Characters Are Mentioned - Character, Will Byers

Relationships: Dustin Henderson/Lucas Sinclair, Eleven | Jane Hopper/Maxine "Max" Mayfield, Will Byers/Mike Wheeler

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Summary:

El wants to solve a mystery, and she finds one. Sorta.

El and her Journey to Find a Mystery

It's very important to know that El watches a lot of mystery crime dramas. *Hart to Hart*, *Murder She Wrote*, *Columbo* -it didn't matter. She loved them all. They were interesting and clever and the mysteries always got solved and everything was always alright in the end. That was probably her favourite part, in hindsight. That the questions got answered and everyone turned out okay.

So, when the opportunity to solve a mystery-a non-interdimensional one, that is-came her way, El was ready for it.

She kicked open Will's door, and threw the covers off of her kinda-brother.

"Will," She started, standing on top of his bed. "I'm beginning an investigation."

"El it's like five am."

"Have you noticed that Mr Clarke and Mrs Johnson have been hanging out a lot."

"El."

"Like a lot."

“El it’s so early.”

“I think Mrs Johnson is cheating on her husband with Mr Clarke.”

“Mrs Johnson isn’t even married.”

“Really?”

“Yeah she got a divorce.”

“I don’t know what that means.”

Will sighed, and then took the time to sit up, gently nudging El over.

“So you know how people get married, right? And there’s a ceremony?”

El nodded. She had seen weddings on TV.

“Divorce is the opposite, basically. You go to court and you stop being married. But, like, it’s written down that you aren’t married.”

“Oh.”

Will laid back down, and El continued thinking. Well, there went her mystery.

“Mom got a divorce, that’s why we don’t live with my dad.” Will stated, yawning loudly.

“I wanted to solve a mystery.”

“I’ll add a mystery to our next game of DnD.”

“Promise?”

“Promise.”

Turns out, El didn’t need a game of DnD to solve a mystery. One fell into her lap.

See, El liked to check up on her friends using her powers. Not out of malicious intent, just because she worried. So, she would cover her eyes, put some static on the radio, and sink into the void.

She had already checked on Dustin, who was exploring, Lucas and Max, who were setting off fireworks at the quarry, Will, who had fallen asleep on his toast, and Mike, who was throwing popcorn at the TV. The only ones left were Nancy, Steve, Jonathan, and Robin.

So, she went to check on Jonathan and Steve.

And they were in *bed together. Naked.*

El didn't stay for long, because she had no desire to see boys naked. However, now she had a mystery to solve.

She went to tell Will.

"Will I found a mystery!" She announced, walking into his room.

"Huh wha." Will said, waking up to find half of his toast stuck to his face.

El was busy closing the blinds, because that's what people do when they discover a secret.

"You'll never believe what I saw!" El said, climbing onto Will's desk.

“There’s butter all over my cheek.”

El ignored Will’s pouting and continued. “Jonathan and Steve were in bed together. Naked.”

“What?!”

“They weren’t wearing clothes.”

“No I-Oh my god-El you have to leave them alone.”

“But it’s a mystery. You have to solve mysteries.”

“El, if they’re in bed together, then they’re probably dating.”

“But they’re both boys.”

Will turned red, bright, bright red, and tears pricked his eyes. “Yes, El. And if you tell someone they’re dating, then they’re gonna get hurt.”

“How can two boys date?”

Will sighed, and actually wiped his eyes. "It's called being gay. It's when people like the same gender, like if a girl likes a girl or a guy likes a guy. It's-people don't like gay people, they think it's wrong, and if you tell anyone you saw them in bed together, someone is going to get hurt."

"Okay." El started, putting her hand on Will's shoulder. "I won't tell anyone." Usually she would've pushed the issue further, but Will looked like he was going to start crying and never stop if she asked more questions.

Will gave her a teary smile, and she gave him one back.

The topic didn't come up again until Tuesday, when the Party decided to listen to music on the Cerebro.

Something about how Will reacted-the crying, the sheer amount of fear in his voice, the way he now refused to look her in the eye-she finally solved a mystery.

Will was gay.

And he was terrified.

El looked at her friends. She couldn't imagine hating Will because he

liked boys. She didn't hate Will because he liked boys. Sure, she didn't understand why he liked boys-she only liked boys because that's what the girls on TV did.

And she couldn't imagine anyone here hating Will because he liked boys.

She looked at Dustin and Lucas and Max and Mike-they had been through so much together. Something as small as being gay wouldn't ruin that, right?

But clearly Will didn't think that.

But maybe...maybe if he knew, he wouldn't be so scared.

And if she simply stated it like it was a question...

El turned to the person closest to her, which happened to be Lucas.

"Do you hate gay people?"

"No."

The response was nearly instantaneous.

Lucas looked at her. “Why are you asking?”

“I was reading a magazine. You don’t hate gay people?”

“No?” Lucas said, before looking at the group and gulping.

El looked at her friends. They looked-surprised? Will looked like he was gonna faint, Mike looked annoyed, Max looked scared, and Dustin was looking at the Cerebro and avoiding everyone’s gaze.

“I-I mean,” Lucas started, in a shaky voice. “I mean, if your gay or whatever, then you probably didn’t choose to be gay, and you shouldn’t be judged for things you can’t choose to be. And you should be able to love...whoever you wanna love...” Lucas finished softly, fidgeting with the collar of his shirt.

El watched as his eyes made a beeline directly towards Dustin, who was still not looking anyone in the eye.

Oh.

So apparently, Will wasn’t the only one who liked boys.

“Yeah,” Max said, pointing to Lucas. “Yeah, I agree with Lucas. It’s stupid. Adults are just-stupid and controlling. Like, if I wanted to kiss

a girl, why should they stop me? I mean, there's serial killers all over the place, focus on that."

"Also," Dustin started, still looking away from everyone. "If we're supposed to be the land of freedom, but we punish people for something that they can't control, then we aren't the land of freedom."

"That's right. So, hating gay people is stupid." Max looked over at Dustin, and he nodded at her.

"Yeah, but you don't have to like-flaunt it." Mike said. "If you're gay, then like-you don't have to say it. You can just, you know. Try not to be."

El whipped around to look at Mike, who still looked annoyed. She then looked at Will, who was looking at Mike with a mixture of fear and sadness.

Oh no.

"But it's not that easy. You can't hide from your feelings forever, they're going to appear and then everyone's going to leave you because they're dirty and bad and *your dirty and bad* ." Lucas nearly yelled, going hoarse at the end. When he realized that everyone was staring at him, he blushed and looked at the ground. "That's what I've read at least."

“Look,” Mike said, looking frustrated. “Everyone’s had feelings that they don’t want to deal with. They should just do what everyone else does and ignore it. Find a nice girl and or a nice boy and eventually you’ll either start to feel something or you’ll at least have a distraction.”

“But that doesn’t work at all you just end up thinking about it more and more and then you have to worry about your brother finding out because he’ll tell your dad and then he’ll either beat you or kick you out of the house.” Max said in one breath, before several tears rolled down her cheeks. “I need to go home.”

“Max,” Lucas said, standing up.

“Luke please, I don’t like this conversation anymore.”

“We wouldn’t let anything happen to you.” El said, as firmly as she possibly could. “I won’t let anything happen to you.”

“Y-You can s-stay with us.” Will spoke up for the first time since the conversation had started. His cheeks were bright red and his eyes were watery.

Mike took one look at Will and stood up. “Let’s all go to my place, my parents and Holly are at grandma’s and we can all sleep in the basement. We’ll watch a couple movies and I can make some popcorn.” He smiled, but it didn’t reach his eyes at all. “No one has to see their dad or their brother.”

There was a pause, then a murmur of agreement.

Then, despite his argument that gay people could simply bury their feelings, he gently took Will's hand, and began to lead everyone down the hill.

Things were better at home.

First, El wrapped Max up into the tightest hug that she could, pressing up against every inch of the redhead that was available. Max smelled like grass and lemon detergent and her hands felt firm against her but her skin was soft and she was so perfectly Max that El wondered how she had ever been able to kiss Mike and-

Oh.

Well, El decided to think about that exciting new revelation in the morning.

Eventually, everyone joined in the group hug, even Mike, who was mostly hugging Will, but no one mentioned it. It was warm and squishy and slightly claustrophobic and it was perfect.

They separated, with Dustin and Lucas each giving her a kiss on the temple, before Dustin dragged Lucas off to chat. Will pressed his

cheek to Max's, she pressed her cheek back, and Mike gently touched her head for a moment before pulling Will away to fuss over him.

El kept her arms around Max, and then nuzzled their noses together, before letting her go.

“Do you wanna talk about what happened earlier?”

Max gave her a watery smile and shook her head. “Can we wait until tomorrow?”

“Whatever you want.”

They eventually did get organized and settled enough to watch a movie. Dustin and Lucas made popcorn, and they even added melted butter and salt. Max had found some chocolate so they were sharing that as well. They had chosen *ET* to watch, and they somehow managed to squeeze all six of them on the couch.

Will had decided to sit in Mike's lap, resting his head on the taller boy's chest with his legs hanging off of the arm of the couch. Mike was absentmindedly stroking his back with his hand resting on Will's knee as the smaller boy struggled to keep his eyes open. El didn't know what they discussed, but clearly Mike didn't care that Will was gay.

Lucas and Dustin were on the other end of the couch, also apparently tired from their own private discussion. Lucas was laying against Dustin, using him as a pillow, with his feet resting on the coffee table. Dustin had a hand in Lucas's hair, and was half asleep himself.

Then there was Max, who let El braid her hair, and was currently fast asleep curled up against El's arm. Max, who looked completely relaxed for the first time since the battle at Starcourt. Max, who had tucked herself as tightly as she could against El's left side, intertwining her finger's with El's. Her tears had completely dried and the stress had drained out of her face.

El stared at the beautiful girl below her, and smiled. She then stared at her wonderful friends around her, and she smiled even wider.

They were going to be fine.